



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
*Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERIOR COURT TO HOLD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTROOM AND QUICKSTART ASSESSMENT CENTER OPEN HOUSE

The Ventura Superior Court will hold an open house to celebrate the opening of its new Domestic Violence Courtroom on Friday, September 15, 2006 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Courtroom 37. Tours of the courtroom and related QuickStart Assessment Center will be available throughout the open house.

The Domestic Violence Courtroom features a private viewing room where victims can observe court proceedings without being seen by the defendant or other parties, a secure holding area for in-custody defendants, and office space for the Public Health Nurse. All families appearing in the Domestic Violence Court who have children five years or younger are referred to the Public Health Nurse for assessment services. Television monitors installed in the lobby outside the Domestic Violence Courtroom will play videos related to parenting, restraining orders and available services while the parties wait for their court hearing.

The QuickStart Assessment Center conducts immediate mental health and substance abuse assessments for the court. It is staffed by several Ventura County Behavioral Health Department clinicians. Defendants may be referred from any courtroom, but the majority of the referrals come from the Domestic Violence and Proposition 36 courts. The rapid assessments provide the judges with valuable information to assist in making decisions regarding court orders, sanctions or incentives. In addition to allowing cases to progress more quickly, the on-site assessments provide defendants with the convenience of not having to travel to

another location or take additional time off from work to attend an assessment at a future date. The QuickStart Assessment Center is a collaborative effort between the Ventura Superior Court and Ventura County Behavioral Health Department. It has been in operation since October 24, 2005.

The opening of the new Domestic Violence Courtroom completes the consolidation of all family law-related court services in one location within the Hall of Justice. These include the family law courtrooms, QuickStart Assessment Center, Family Law Self-Help Center, Family Court Services mediation offices, and Children's Waiting Room. Consolidating all services in one location allows the public to conduct their business in an efficient and more productive manner.

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